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MR. CALVIN W. RICE, secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was the guest of the student branch of the society in the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois on January 23 and 24. In an address before the members of the society, Mr. Rice emphasized the importance of every engineer being interested in the national engineering societies. Mr. Rice was entertained by the local members of the society at a dinner at the University Club in the evening of the 23d.

PROFESSOR E. H. S. BAILEY, director of the chemical laboratories in the University of Kansas, has been granted a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year 1911-12, and will leave immediately for Europe, where he will make a study of foods, investigating market conditions and food supplies.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GIFTS, aggregating \$81,291, have been announced by the trustees of Columbia University including \$30,000 from Dr. William H. Nichols for instruction and research laboratories in chemistry; \$25,000 from Mrs. Russell Sage, for the E. G. Janeway Library endowment fund at the medical school; \$15,000 from W. Bayard Cutting, to establish the William Bayard Cutting, Jr., fellowship in international law, and \$10,000 from Augustus Schermerhorn, to be expended for the current needs of the university. Dr. Theodore C. Janeway has given to the trustees the medical library left to him by his father, Dr. Edward G. Janeway.

THE completion of the half million endowment fund for Oberlin College has made possible the following additions to the college resources: the men's building, \$150,000; a new administration building, \$50,000; the completion of the men's gymnasium, \$30,000; a part payment on Keep Cottage, the new women's dormitory, of \$10,000; for higher salaries, \$200,000, and other endowments, \$60,000; thus making a total of \$240,000 for buildings and \$260,000 for salaries and other endowments. Among the donors were the following: anonymous, \$200,000; a friend, \$50,-

000; Dr. L. C. Warner, of New York City, \$40,000; Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Clark, of Evanston, Ill., \$10,000; Charles M. Hall, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., \$10,000; an eastern friend, \$12,000; Mrs. D. Willis James, of New York City, \$10,000.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY has announced that the effort to raise a fund of \$250,000 has been successfully completed. The largest gifts aside from \$50,000 offered by the General Education Board in May, 1910, were as follows: \$30,000 from R. A. Long, of Kansas City; three gifts of \$15,000 each from W. P. Bowers, of Muncie, Ind., Geo. H. Waters, of Pomona, Calif., and J. J. Atkins, of Elkton, Ky.; \$9,000 from M. F. Pearce, of Covington, Ky., and four gifts of \$5,000 each. The remainder of the fund was provided in many smaller amounts.

CONTRACTS have been let for the erection of a new laboratory of mining engineering and a new ceramics building at the University of Illinois. Two other buildings, the commercial and the woman's building, are being constructed and plans are nearly completed for a new armory, stock pavilion and transportation building.

At a recent meeting of the court of the Goldsmiths' Company the following grants were made to the senate of the University of London: For the building fund of King's College for Women, £10,000; for the endowment fund of Bedford College for Women, £5,000; for the building and equipment fund of the chemical department of University College, Gower Street, £1,000. The company has also made a grant of £1,000 to the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington for the equipment of the metallurgical department at that institution.

DR. ROBERT DAVIES ROBERTS, secretary of the Congress of the Universities of the Empire and chairman of the executive committee of the University of Wales, who died on November 14, aged 60, left an ultimate residue legacy to the University College of Wales at Aberystwith, to form the nucleus of a fund "to enable professors after a certain number

of years of service, say not less than ten, to be released from the professorial duties for a period of about a year, and, at any rate, not less than six months on full salary, a substitute being paid out of the income of the fund; the purpose of this release from college duties being to enable the professor to refresh his mind by travel or research or visits to other universities, and so gain fresh stimulus and equipment for his work."

THE University of Pittsburgh will celebrate its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary on February 27, 28 and 29, 1912. The first charter was granted to the Pittsburgh Academy on February 27, 1787. In 1819 it became the Western University of Pennsylvania, the name being again changed in 1908 to the University of Pittsburgh. Educational conferences will be held on Tuesday, February 27. On Wednesday, February 28, an historical address on "The Progress of Higher Education since 1787" will be given by Chancellor Kirkland, of Vanderbilt University. This address will be followed by the conferring of honorary degrees. In the afternoon an historical address on the University of Pittsburgh will be given by former Chancellor Holland, followed by addresses by representatives of educational institutions. On Thursday, February 29, there will be conferences of the college presidents of Pennsylvania and secondary schools of western Pennsylvania. The visiting guests will be entertained at luncheon on each day of the anniversary celebration and at the alumni anniversary banquet on Wednesday evening.

By vote of the faculty of Oberlin College, the budget for the current year contains a special appropriation to be used in defraying the expenses of administrative officers, professors and associate professors who wish to attend meetings of scientific societies and other gatherings of a professional nature. The faculty is divided into ten groups, and each has a proportionate share in the general fund.

THE inauguration of President Hibben of Princeton University will take place on the morning of Saturday, May 11.

FATHER ALEXANDER J. BURROWES, S.J., a native St. Louisian and now the head of Loyola University, has been elected president of St. Louis University, succeeding Father G. P. Frieden, S.J., who died suddenly two months ago.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PROFESSOR JENNINGS AS A BIOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHER

NOT for many a day, according to my notion, has anything more significant taken place in the biological realm than Professor Jennings's presidential address on "Heredity and Personality" before the American Society of Naturalists at its recent meeting (SCIENCE, December 29, 1911).

How splendid an era of biological achievement will have been ushered in when men of Jennings's rank shall come forth from their laboratories upon occasion and discuss, without feeling the need of apology for doing so, the infinitely large as well as the infinitely small problems of our science! This address augurs for Jennings as commanding a place in the larger biology as he now holds in the smaller.

Concerning the particular road, namely, that of genetics, by which Professor Jennings has come so near the edge of the woods of biological minutism I shall say little at this time. Rather it is about his rôle as philosopher, or better as metaphysician, that I wish to speak. In the first place I want to express my gratification at the clear evidence furnished by this address particularly, that he possesses both the aptitude and the courage to be the successor of Brooks, not merely as a professor of zoology but as an upholder of the rights and dignity of the philosophical side of biology. In the second place I am going to claim the privilege usually accorded to seniority of years and counsel Jennings against the supposed necessity of apologizing for the violation of good biological manners when he yields to his inclination to talk to fellow biologists on large subjects.

Now as to the problems raised. I do not, as already said, propose to go far into the sub-